

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed on October 5, 2005, in which claims 1-5, 7-17, 19-23, 25-30, 33-38, 40-42, and 44 were rejected, and claims 6, 18, 24, 31, 32, 39, and 43 were objected to. With this amendment, claims 1, 4-6, 9, 22-24, 35, 38, 39, and 41-43 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1-44 are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Final Office Action, claims 1, 3, 4, 9-17, 19-22, 26-29, 33, and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Kotnis et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,355,196 (the Kotnis patent) in view of Rosato's Injection Molding Handbook 3rd Ed (the Rosato reference); claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Kotnis patent in view of the Rosato reference and Priedeman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,790,403 (the Priedeman patent); claims 5, 7, 8, 23, 25, 34, 42, and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Kotnis patent; claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Kotnis patent in view of Gale et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,287,428; claims 35, 37, 38, and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Kotnis patent in view of Beldue et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,952,018 (the Beldue patent); and claim 36 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Kotnis patent in view of the Beldue patent and Edwards et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,938,876.

Independent claims 1, 9, 35, and 41, as amended, now respectively include the limitations set forth in claim 6, 24, 39, and 43, which the Examiner stated would be allowable over the prior art of record if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 1, 9, 35, and 41, as amended, are allowable. Claims 2-8, 10-34, 36-40, and 42-44 depend respectively from claims 1, 9, 35, and 41, and are allowable therewith. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the combinations of features recited in claims 2-8, 10-34, 36-40, and 42-44 are independently patentable, although this does not need to be specifically addressed herein since any claim depending from a patentable independent claim is also patentable. See M.P.E.P. 2143.03, citing In re Fine, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d (BNA) 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

II. Double Patenting Rejections

In the Final Office Action, claim 2 was rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over claim 1 of the Priedeman patent, and claim 10 was provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over claim 1 of co-pending Application No. 10/511,783. Claim 2 depends from independent claim 1 and claim 10 depends from independent claim 9, which, as discussed above, are allowable. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the double patenting rejections for claims 2 and 10.

CONCLUSION

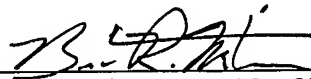
Because the prior art made of record does not show, suggest, or teach all the limitations in claims 1-44, pending claims 1-44 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0982.

Respectfully submitted,

KINNEY & LANGE, P.A.

Date: 5/16/06

By: 
Brian R. Morrison, Reg. No. 58,455
THE KINNEY & LANGE BUILDING
312 South Third Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1002
Telephone: (612) 339-1863
Fax: (612) 339-6580